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ORIGIN AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	OIGO-01
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	L-01	ADS-00	M-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01
	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	FMP-00	PMB-00	PRM-10	DRL-09	G-00	/046R

DRAFTED BY: AF/C:LACECSARINI:LAC
APPROVED BY: AF/FO:PBUSHNELL
PRM:ANELSON

AF/C:RFENDRICK

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P R 080248Z NOV 94
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 301342

GENEVA FOR RMA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PREF, MOPS, RW, CG
SUBJECT: NGO PULLOUT FROM GOMA?
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REF: USUN 4752

1. SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO IRC REPRESENTATIVES, THE SECURITY SITUATION IN GOMA CAMPS HAS BECOME UNTENABLE. 15 NGOS SIGNED A STATEMENT RELEASED NOVEMBER 3 THREATENING TO CEASE OPERATIONS IN GOMA IF SECURITY CONCERNS WERE NOT ADDRESSED IMMEDIATELY. END SUMMARY.

2. INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE (IRC) REPRESENTATIVES SHEPPIE ABRAMOWITZ AND FAYE RICHARDSON INFORMED DAS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY:
HARRY R. MELONE

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BUSHNELL NOVEMBER 3 THAT IRC WOULD PULL ITS PERSONNEL FROM GOMA REFUGEE CAMPS IF URGENT STEPS WERE NOT TAKEN TO ADDRESS THE SECURITY PROBLEM. THE ORGANIZATION WAS ONE OF 15 NGOS WHICH SIGNED A STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT (TEXT OF STATEMENT FAXED TO POST) RELEASED IN NAIROBI NOVEMBER 3. OTHER SIGNATORIES INCLUDED MSF (BELGIUM, FRANCE, HOLLAND), CARE (CANADA, USA, UK, OTHERS), ARC OXFAM UK, MDM.

3. THE STATEMENT EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE UNHCR'S OCTOBER 21ST STATEMENT ON CONDITIONS IN THE CAMPS, AND

HIGHLIGHTED WHAT SIGNATORIES DEEMED THE "HOSTAGE" STATUS OF REFUGEES. THE STATEMENT ALSO SPECIFIED FIVE CONDITIONS REQUIRED FOR EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE TO CONTINUE, INCLUDING SEPARATION OF RINGLEADERS FROM REMAINING REFUGEES, REMOVAL OF ARMS FROM CAMPS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF ADEQUATE SECURITY FOR AN INDEPENDENT REGISTRATION, UNIMPEDED DELIVERY OF ASSISTANCE, AND "FREEDOM OF CHOICE" FOR REFUGEES TO REPATRIATE. SIGNATORIES WILL WITHDRAW FROM CAMPS, IT SAID, ABSENT AN "IMMEDIATE AND TANGIBLE" EFFORT TO EFFECT

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THESE CHANGES.

4. IRC REPS STRESSED THAT SECURITY FOR NGO WORKERS WAS NOT THE PRIMARY CONCERN BEHIND THE NGOS' UNPRECEDENTED MOVE. REFUGEES THEMSELVES WERE INCREASINGLY IN DANGER, THEY SAID, CITING A RECENT INCIDENT OUTSIDE IRC'S HOSPITAL IN GOMA (KIBUMBA CAMP) IN WHICH RETURNEES REPORTING FAVORABLY ON CONDITIONS INSIDE RWANDA HAD BEEN SEVERELY BEATEN. JUST AS IMPORTANT WAS THE MORAL DILEMMA INVOLVED. BY MEETING REFUGEES' MATERIAL NEEDS IN CAMPS UNDER MILITIA AND FORMER GOVERNMENT LEADERS' CONTROL, NGOS WERE PERMITTING THE HARDLINE POWER STRUCTURE TO USE ITS RESOURCES TO REGROUP FOR A FUTURE TAKEOVER OF RWANDA, A GOAL WHICH CAMP LEADERS HAD FREELY ADMITTED. INSTEAD OF CONTRIBUTING TO A SOLUTION, THE NGOS WERE INCREASINGLY IN THE POSITION OF HELPING TO FOMENT FURTHER DISASTER.

5. RICHARDSON SUGGESTED A NUMBER OF STEPS TO "REDRESS THE BALANCE" - INCLUDING AN INFUSION OF RESOURCES TO THE GOR, COUPLED WITH INSISTENCE THAT THE GOR BRING IN MODERATE HUTUS TO REASSURE THE POPULATION, AN INSISTENCE ON "BALANCED" REPORTING (I.E. NOT JUST CRITICISM OF GOR/RPA) AND STEPS TO ADDRESS RETURNEE NEEDS (SEEDS AND TOOLS, HOUSING, JUDICIAL SYSTEM REHABILITATION, ETC.). WITHOUT RECOMMENDING SPECIFICS, SHE ALSO PRESSED FOR A SIGNIFICANT

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MILITARY PRESENCE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER TO GUARANTEE
SAFETY AND FREEDOM OF CHOICE FOR REFUGEE RETURN.

6. DAS BUSHNELL RESPONDED THAT THE USG SHARED THEIR GRAVE
CONCERN OVER SECURITY IN THE CAMPS AND HAD BEEN EXAMINING
OPTIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE UN AND OTHERS. ANY
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EFFECTIVE SOLUTION TO THE CAMP PROBLEM WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY
INVOLVE PUTTING INTERNATIONAL TROOPS INTO A DANGEROUS
SITUATION, SHE STRESSED, AND FINDING TROOP CONTRIBUTING
COUNTRIES WOULD NOT BE EASY. NEVERTHELESS, THE USG HAD
PROVIDED INPUT TO THE UN ON VIABLE OPTIONS AND EXPECTED A
RECOMMENDATION FROM THE UNSYG TO THE UNSC SHORTLY
(REFTEL). THE US HAD ALSO CONSISTENTLY PRESSED FOR
MEASURES WHICH WOULD LAY THE GROUNDWORK INSIDE RWANDA FOR

SAFE RETURN OF REFUGEES, INCLUDING ASSISTANCE FOR THE
JUDICIARY, ADDRESSING THE LAND TENURE ISSUE AND DEPLOYMENT
OF HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS.

7. IRC REPS ALSO SPOKE WITH WITH PRM (MCKELVEY) AND WERE
SEEKING MEETINGS WITH NSC. ABRAMOWITZ SAID INTERACTION
DIRECTOR JULIA TAFT AND NGO REPRESENTATIVES WERE ALSO
PLANNING TO TRAVEL TO NEW YORK TO DISCUSS THEIR CONCERNS
WITH UN AND US (AMB. INDERFURTH?) OFFICIALS IN THE NEXT
FEW DAYS.

8. RICHARDSON ADMITTED IRC HAD BEEN ANXIOUS ABOUT
POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR ITS WORKERS IN GOMA IF THEY
SIGNED ON TO THE STATEMENT. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE
ANY INFORMATION FROM ADDRESSEES IN THE REGION ON REACTION
TO THE STATEMENT'S RELEASE.

9. KIGALI AND BUJUMBURA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

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